met again on Saturday the 4th of May at the house of Mr Richard Ragan. Present Richard Ragan, Otho Lawrence, Trusty Silghman Jr. Trusty Silghman Jr, John B. Clagett.

Resolved that the following letter be presented to Mr Drane to which a reply was received, and is herewith also recorded.

To the Revd Robert B. Drane

Dear Sir

Are your engagement such as to preclude all hope of retaining you amongst us, as we most earnestly wish, and know to be the desire of the congregation?

Signed by the members present

Answer

To the Vestry of St Johns Parish

Gent.

Your letter of the 3rd Inst conveying to me the profession of your kind & earnest wish to retain me as the Rector of your Parish, and enquiring whether my engagements elsewhere are of such a nature as to render a compliance with your wishes in this particular impracticable, was duly received, and its contents made the subject of serious and respectful consideration. I need hardly say to you gentlemen, that this renewed evidence of your confidence and friendship in the midst of my present difficulties, deeply makes a deep impression on my mind and serves greatly to heighten that regret, which I now feel in being obliged to return you an answer adverse to your wishes.

When I originally tendered my resignation of the charge of this parish, I then stated that it was done from a conviction on my part, that I could no longer continue in the discharge of my duty with that tranquility & peace which I felt to be necessary to render my services profitable to you. This impression produced in the first instance by the malicious & illiberal conduct of some who had set themselves to assail my reputation & influence as a minister of religion subsequent and other events have not changed

I will not trust myself Gentlemen to speak of the character of those proceedings to which I allude, the are well known to you all, and must I am sure be viewed with mortification and regret by every friend of the church in this community.

Outraged however as I feel myself to be by the conduct of some whom I was once proud to call my friends I do confess that when I think of the generous efforts which the friends of the church have made to sustain her interests during my ministry among you, and now especially when I look at the recent demonstrations of confidence & friendship which I have received from yourselves & the congregation which you represent, I should be willing to make an effort to gratify your request, did I not feel that such a course on my part would involve a sacrifice of the happiness of one too near and dear to me to be thus sacrificed. Under these circumstances I have resolved to seek that peace for myself & family elsewhere, which I fear never should be permitted to enjoy here. In the mean time I must again beg leave to return you my warmest thanks for the many offices of kindness which I have received at your hands. Wherever I go these will be remembered with the warmest gratitude, & I shall not cease to pray for you, that our good & gracious master will soon send to you another pastor, & may often his prayers be heard, who shall be faithful to your interests & more successful in his labours for your welfare than those who have preceded him.

I remain Gentlemen
in the best bonds
Yours truly
Signed R B. Drane

Rectory of St Johns
June 8th 1836

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